



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Majority prices were trending unchanged in the West, unchanged to lower elsewhere. Trade sentiment was about steady to weak. Retail demand was seasonally slow to fair and disappointing. Food service covered the full range with fast food specials, restaurants, and catering businesses receiving best movement. Supplies were at least adequate for present needs. In the parts structure, thighs were adequate to instances tight and moving well. The remaining items were more than sufficient to handle the light buying interest. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were light to heavy.

Preliminary report of prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers fob to first receivers at major market areas week of 12/13-12/18/99 (cents per lb)

US GRADE A (Including branded product)			COMPOSITE	
AREAS	MAJORITY	RANGE	WTD AVG	LOADS
Bos/New Eng	TFEWR	—		
Chicago	50.00-52.00	36.00-61.00	51.75	24
Cincinnati	TFEWR	—		
Cleveland	TFEWR	—		
Denver	63.50	—		
Detroit	TFEWR	—		
Los Angeles	64.00	—		
New York	49.00-54.00	—		
Philadelphia	TFEWR	—		
Pittsburgh	TFEWR	—		
St. Louis	TFEWR	—		
San Francisco	64.50	—		

Southeast Area FOB Dock Equivalent

Mississippi	57.00-59.00	42.50-59.50	57.87	81
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GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 58.50 cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

PRELIMINARY FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT

LOADS	RANGE	FRIDAY PRELIM. WTD. AVG.
578	53.50-61.00	58.30
Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed preliminary weighted average price on ice packed parts:		
ITEM	WTD. AVG.	VOLUME
(CENTS PER POUND)	(000 POUNDS)	
BREASTS - B/S	136.50	3,880
BREASTS - WHOLE	70.50	1,720
THIGH MEAT - B/S	69.00	594
LEG QUARTERS	20.00	7,645
WINGS	75.50	2,628

THIS INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S POULTRY MARKET NEWS SERVICE.

SOUTHERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS Trading sentiment was steady to barely steady. Demand was light and unaggressive with little trading even at discounted prices. Supplies were more than sufficient to handle trade needs. In the parts structure, trading was fair to good, best for wings and thighs. Supplies were adequate to ample for breast items, balanced for wings and dark meat items. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS Preliminary majority prices unchanged. The market tone was about steady with offerings ample. Discounts offered on surplus product but stimulated little additional interest. Buyers needs fair at best. Demand was light to moderate, best for parts. Dealers anticipated moderate to heavier than desired weekend carryovers.

MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS Preliminary majority prices for next week's trading were 1 cent lower into Chicago and TFEWR elsewhere from last Monday's final. Whole fryer trade sentiment steady to instances weak. Movement into retail channels was slow to fair and disappointing. Food service demand mixed, slow to fairly good, best into catering, restaurants and fast food promotions. Floor stocks adequate to ample, sizes desirable. Parts trading was mixed, mostly light with wings and boneless/skinless breasts moving best. Supplies were at least adequate. Trade sentiment was about steady on all items.

NORTHEAST REGION BROILER/FRYER Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers continued light with only slight improvement for the end of the week. Offerings of all sizes were at least sufficient for current needs with smaller sizes in the most available position. Movement into retail and distributive outlets was no better than fair. The market tone was barely steady to weak. In the parts complex, all items were more than adequate and bone-in breasts were ample.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYERS Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds increased entering the weekend, but again remained insufficient to satisfactorily clear seller offerings. Live supplies were mostly moderate; weights varied in a full range of light to heavy. Processing schedules were irregular and light to moderate overall. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 54 to 66 cents. Trade sentiment was mostly weak. In the parts complex, with the exception of thighs which were tight in instances, supplies were more than sufficient to handle the seasonally light and spotty buying interest.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA.

BRANDED U.S. GRADE A	
RANGE	42-67
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	57.01
NO. OF BOXES	9,062
CUMULATIVE	
	12/06/99-12/10/99
	12/07/98-12/11/98
NO. OF BOXES	12/06/99-12/10/99
	12/07/98-12/11/98
	37,766

*6 of 8 plants reporting.

DEC 09, 1999

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

DEC 10, 1999

ITEM	POUNDS		MAJORITY	WTD AVG	POUNDS		MAJORITY	WTD AVG	WEEKLY	
	(000)	RANGE			(000)	RANGE			(000)	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	589	118.00-183.00	125-135	133.19	520	120.00-183.00	125-135	133.47	2,723	137.80
TENDERLOINS	140	125.00-200.00	-	177.14	160	125.00-175.00	130-135	134.38	585	157.23
BREAST - LINE RUN	94	66.00-70.00	66-68	66.34	94	66.00-71.00	66-68	66.43	455	66.41
FRONT HALVES	105	62.00-65.00	62-64	63.00	TOO FEW TO REPORT				465	61.18
LEGS	46	24.00-34.00	24-25	25.30	46	24.00-34.00	24-25	25.30	351	24.88
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	382	15.00-19.00	15-16	15.96	462	15.00-19.00	16-17	16.10	2,189	16.11
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,301	17.00-21.00	19-20	19.74	1,041	17.00-21.00	19-20	19.58	5,845	19.82
WINGS (WHOLE)	89	72.00-75.00	72-74	73.53	89	72.00-75.00	-	73.53	826	72.79
WINGS (CUT)	506	80.00-92.00	85-87	86.13	516	80.00-92.00	84-86	85.93	2,232	85.69
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				50	34.00
THIGHS	51	21.00-34.00	-	23.80	50	20.00-34.00	-	22.80	173	23.71
B/S THIGHS	60	62.00-70.00	-	64.68	80	62.00-70.00	-	64.00	360	64.22

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS*****
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TRADING FOR DEC 09, 1999 — F.O.B. DOCK.

TRADING FOR DEC 10, 1999 — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE		TODAY'S AVERAGE	RANGE		TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
38.50 - 42.00		39.48	36.50 - 40.50		38.05	38.74

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS Trucklot buying interest was about fair. Some improvement for the weekend was noted, however, business continued to fall short of expectations. Offerings were generally more than adequate. Bone-in breasts were becoming increasingly available and sales below market levels were reported. Retail and distributive movement was usually light. The market tone was barely steady to weak on bone-in breasts and about steady on the balance. PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES.

ITEM	CURRENT NEG		WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS	CURRENT NEG		WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS	WTD AVG	VOL/LBS
	TRADING*				TRADING*					
BREAST - B/S	130	132.31	513,840		130134.68	582,760	134.00	2,426,680		
TENDERLOINS	130	133.52	98,680		130133.83	130,200	133.51	504,640		
BREAST - WITH RIBS	60-61	70.83	205,080		60-6168.64	287,920	70.26	1,193,200		
BREAST - LINE RUN	60	64.10	100,320		6063.07	212,280	63.93	608,800		26-27
LEGS	26-27	30.24	233,360		30.28	229,880	30.26	997,280		16-17
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	16-17	19.25	523,662		18.42	455,531	18.69	2,188,274		34-35
DRUMSTICKS	34-35	31.37	94,160		32.50	113,670	31.32	611,050		20-21
THIGHS	20-21	28.95	85,580		29.32	294,480	27.32	582,540		70-71
B/S THIGHS	70-71	73.61	44,480		75.03	41,560	73.97	221,370		71-72
WINGS (WHOLE)	71-72	80.49	234,280		80.15	280,640	80.56	1,258,600		10-12
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.10	65,760		12.03	74,520	12.02	336,880		40-45
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	40-45	38.40	57,960		33.94	81,280	38.55	311,425		55-60
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	64.87	76,800		64.54	91,360	63.58	407,310		

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG). * TODAY'S NEG. SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WTD AVG PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG WTS		AVG WTS	
	12/10	12/09	12/08	12/07	12/08	12/07	12/03	12/01
ALA	3,770	3,885	3,898	3,700	5.20	5.14	4,027	5.13
ARK	4,646	4,914	5,224	4,923	4.90	4.88	5,575	4.84
DELMARVA	2,197	2,126	2,473	2,266	5.01	5.20	2,319	5.18
KY-LA-TN	1,578	1,834	1,806	1,572	4.47	4.29	2,194	4.47
MISS	2,651	2,787	2,781	2,621	4.99	5.00	3,032	5.12
NC	2,664	2,583	2,542	2,570	5.82	5.91	3,133	5.91
TEXAS	2,698	2,232	2,096	2,242	4.83	4.77	2,346	4.86
TOTAL	20,204	20,361	19,807	19,894	5.06	5.05	22,626	5.08
MON-FRI101,080(A)					103,985(A)			

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 10-Dec and 11-Dec-99 is estimated to be 30,227,000 down 10.97 percent from a week ago and down 0.5 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 33,953,000; last year 30,374,000)

Weekly broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for the week ending 11-Dec-99 is estimated to be 152,919,000 head down 0.7 percent from a week ago, and up 3.0 percent from a year ago (Last week 154,008,000 Last year 148,532,000)

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY
DELIVERED TO RETAILERS**

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	78-82
ROASTERS 4# & UP	80-90
HENS UNDER 5#	
HENS OVER 5#	88
DUCKS	125
RABBITS-WHOLE	309
RABBITS-CUT UP	326

**SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY
DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS**

FRESH FRYERS	DRY PACK	104
	ICE PACK	92-98
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	104-107
	DRY PACK	112
HENS OVER 5#	DRY PACK	98
	ICE PACK	91
DUCKS		149-162

YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED Under federal inspection, classified by live weight, week ending Nov. 27, 1999 (Preliminary),

	(A) Fast food/ Food service 4.20 Lbs & down	(B) Retail 4.21-5.25 Lbs	(C) Deboning 5.26 Lbs & Up
	-----THOUSANDS-----		

Head	26,456	25,637	33,432
Avg Weight	3.79	4.88	6.07
% of total /1	31%	30%	39%
COMPARISONS			
Last week	34,876	24,337	32,683
Avg Weight	3.83	4.80	6.27
% of total /1	38%	26%	36%
Same week, yr ago /2	19,846	22,500	30,631
Avg Weight	3.82	4.71	5.98
% of total /1	27%	31%	42%
To date/1999	1,492,803	1,455,081	1,904,923
To date/1998	1,582,657	1,680,719	1,409,507

/1 May not total to 100% due to rounding.

/2 Comparable week.

(A) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the fast food and food service industries. May also include cornish hens.

(B) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the retail industry.

(C) This weight class generally denotes chickens used in further processing. May also include heavy roasters sold in retail channels.

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

WEEK ENDING 04-Dec-99 (PRELIMINARY)

	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
	-----THOUSANDS-----				
HEAD	154,008 (A)	2,090	1,439	3,529	489
AVG WT	5.08	3.63	7.70	5.29	6.51
LAST WEEK	109,769	1,364	846	2,210	387
YR AGO	152,178	2,191	1,297	3,488	431
AVG WT	4.97	3.51	8.07	5.20	6.57
TO-DATE/1999	7,241,313	98,719	67,746	166,465	21,180
TO-DATE/1998	7,001,075	96,427	60,400	156,827	21,576

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 143.6 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period 155.9 million head or 12.3 million head more than or 109 percent of estimated fryers available.

EAST PETERSBURG POULTRY -- DATE OF AUCTION DEC 07, 1999
PRICES PAID PER POUND, EXCEPT AS NOTED

	RANGE	RANGE
Banty Hens	1.00 - 3.25ea.	Pekin Ducks .50 - .62
Banty Roosters	1.50 - 5.50ea.	Pigeons 1.60 - 2.25ea
Bunnies	1.00 - 2.50ea.	Pullets 4-6 .60 - .84
Chukars	3.00 - 3.35 ea.	Rabbits 4-6 1.00 - 1.42
Crossbred Fowl 5-9	.50 - .78	Rabbits 7-11 1.00 - 1.32
Crossbred Roosters 4-6	.50 - .88	Red Fowl 4-4.5 .50 - .72
Crossbred Roosters 7-11	.60 - .92	Red Fowl 5-6 .60 - .84
Doves	3.00 - 3.50ea.	Silkie 3.25 - 4.00ea
Goats	40.00 - 90.00ea.	White Pigeons 2.00 - 2.50ea
Guinea Fowl	1.50 - 2.15	
Guinea Pigs	4.00 - 6.00ea.	
Kid Goats	25.00 - 40.00ea.	
Leghorn Hens	.05 - .12	
Leghorn Roosters	.20 - .42	
Muscovy Ducks - Drakes	.56 - .64	Total Coops Sold 628
Muscovy Ducks - Hens	.52 - .64	

EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY

FOR CURRENT DELIVERY FED-STATE FOR WEEK OF 06-DEC-99
DUCKLINGS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A, 4-5 POUNDS, DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
LONG ISLAND	137	143
MOSTLY		
MIDWEST	121-125	122-126
MOSTLY	121-123	122-124

ROASTERS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 POUNDS AND UP, DELIVERED

	RANGE	MOSTLY
ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	59-60	
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	65-83	71-75

SQUABS: NEW YORK AREA WHOLESALE PRICES, FROZEN, PLANT GRADE, DOLLARS PER DOZEN, 1 TO 10 BOXES

12 OZ.	60.48-69.66
14 OZ.	66.96-76.14
16 OZ.	73.44-83.43

THE EASTERN REGION INCLUDES:

CT, DE, FL, GA, MA, MD, ME, NC, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, SC, VA, VT, WV

CENTRAL REGION DUCKLINGS Prices remained unchanged. The market tone was steady. Demand was mostly good. Sizes were desirable to heavy. Slaughter schedules were full-time to overtime to make up for the upcoming holidays. Prices to first receivers for 10-18 oz boneless breast at \$4.65-5.25, legs at \$2.80-2.95, bone in legs at \$1.15-1.70, gizzards at \$1.30-1.40, wings at \$0.40-0.60, and leg quarters at \$1.08-1.15.

PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS FOR US GRADE A DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, 4-5 POUNDS, WEEK OF 06-DEC-1999

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
MIDWEST AND OTHERS	117-119	118
MOSTLY		

ESTIMATED U.S. SLAUGHTER COMPARED TO ESTIMATED FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING.

WEEK ENDING	MILLION HEAD SLAUGHTERED	MILLION HEAD AVAILABLE	PCT	AVG WT
OCTOBER 30	153.9	148.5	104	4.97
NOVEMBER 6	156.6	148.3	106	5.12
13	150.2	144.2	104	5.02
20	147.3	140.5	105	4.97
27	111.1	140.3	79	4.97
DECEMBER 4	155.9	143.6	109	5.08
YEAR TO DATE	7330.9	7255.4	101	
DECEMBER 11		144.1		
18		139.5		

CALIFORNIA PLTRY SLTR UNDER FED. INSP W/E 04-Dec-99

IN THOUSANDS

Broilers 3,354 HD, 17,541 lbs., Light Hens 200 HD, 690 lbs., Heavy Hens 0 HD, 0 lbs.

BROILER/CATTLE/HOG WEEKLY ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER

W/E	12/11/99	12/04/99	% CHG	12/12/98	% CHG
Broilers	152,919	*154,008	-01	*148,532	+03
Cattle	661	678	-03	*658	0
Hogs	1,988	2,029	-02	*2,202	-10
Under Federal Inspection					
* ACTUAL					

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL Prices were irregular. Demand was generally good for about adequate to adequate offerings. Overall, supplies were reported as clearing. Trade sentiment was about steady to steady on light canners and usually steady on heavy canners.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

LIGHT CANNER HENS	HEAVY CANNER HENS
(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	(WITHOUT NECKS)
25-26 MAJORITY	32.5-35 MAJORITY 34-34.5

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

LIGHT CANNER HENS	HEAVY CANNER HENS
(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	(WITHOUT NECKS)
26-27 MAJORITY	31-36.75 MAJORITY 36.5-36.75

EASTERN LIGHT Prices were unchanged. Demand was light mostly ample offerings. Processing schedules were normal. The undertone was no better than steady.

SOUTHEAST HEAVY HENS Sales were too few to report prices. Demand was only fair for adequate offerings. Processing schedules were normal. The undertone was generally steady.

NORTH CENTRAL LIVE LIGHT HEN Prices were unchanged. Offerings were fully adequate to ample for current processor needs. Trade sentiment was steady.

WEST COAST LIGHT Plants worked full schedules. Offerings ample.

LIVE HENS

Cents per pound, generally for slaughter the following week.

<u>HEAVY</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>MAJORITY</u>
Southeast Heavy	TFEWR	(1)
Southeast Heavy	TFEWR	(2)
f.o.b. plant	TFEWR	
South Central Heavy	TFEWR	(1)

<u>LIGHT</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>MAJORITY</u>
Eastern Light	0	(1)
Eastern Light	0	(2)
So. Central Light	TFEWR	(2)
No. Central Light	TFEWR	(1)
No. Central Light	0-.5	(2)
(1) Buyer Loading	(2) Producer Loading	

(TFEWR) TOO FEW TO REPORT

NEW YORK SEASONAL HOLIDAY ITEMS. FOR DELIVERY THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 6, 1999.

CAPONS:

Supplies of USDA grade A frozen capons continued in close balance with anticipated needs. Product for December needs are being shipped. Prices were unchanged. Average weights were in a full range. Trade sentiment was steady.

DOLLARS PER POUND DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS:

6-9 LBS.	1.52-1.65	MOSTLY 1.56
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GEESE:

Supplies of frozen USDA grade A geese were in good balance. Product for December needs are being shipped. Prices were unchanged. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady. Weights were in a full range, but mostly desirable.

DOLLARS PER POUND DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS:

6-8 LBS.	TFEWR
8-10 LBS.	1.62-1.75
10-12 LBS.	1.62-1.75
12 LBS. AND UP	1.62-1.75

(TFEWR) TOO FEW TO REPORT